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SUBJECT: ANKARA MEDIA REACTION REPORT

FRIDAY, AUGUST 29, 2003

THIS REPORT WILL PRESENT A TURKISH PRESS SUMMARY UNDER
THREE THEMES:

HEADLINES
BRIEFING
EDITORIAL OPINION

HEADLINES

MASS APPEAL

AKP Plans to Limit President's Authority to Avoid Referendum
- Sabah

Naval Forces Commander Alpkaya: "Threats to Secularism
Continue" - Hurriyet

CHP Leader Baykal: "If We Go Into Iraq, We'll Be Seen As
Occupiers" - Hurriyet

Uzans Have Transferred Assets to Jordan - Milliyet

PKK Attacks in Silopi and Cizre: 6 policemen injured -
Türkiye

OPINION MAKERS

NSC Powers Spark Debate - Zaman

Three Nominees for TRT Directorate from RTÜK - Yeni Safak

Admiral Bulent Alpkaya: "Fundamentalist Threat Continues" -
Cumhuriyet

NSC Should Reveal Its Secret Plans - Radikal

PM Erdogan: "Turkey Won't be US' Gendarme in Iraq" - Türkiye

BRIEFING

Admiral Alpkaya Remarks: All papers report that at a hand-
over ceremony yesterday Naval Forces Commander Admiral
Bulent Alpkaya said that terror and fundamentalist
activities are still threats for Turkey. Alpkaya added that
the Naval Forces would continue to carry out their
responsibilities to fight fundamentalism and separatism.

Turkish Delegation Returns from Iraq: "Radikal" reports
that a delegation of Foreign Ministry, General Staff, and
Intelligence Service representatives returned from Iraq and
presented their report to the Government. The report
advises that before Turkey decides to send forces to Iraq,
the Iraqi people must be convinced that Turks are their
friends and are going to Iraq to protect them and help them
with their economic and social problems. Within this
framework, the report urged the government to expand
Turkey's humanitarian assistance to Iraq.

AKP Plans to Cut President's Powers: "Sabah" reports that
the AKP has decided on a new strategy for avoiding a
possible referendum on the sale of state forest land. PM
Erdogan has given a green light to a further constitutional
reform that would restrict the President's powers to veto
and call a referendum.

Fener Patriarch Presses For Re-Opening of Halki Seminary:
"Zaman" reports that the Greek Orthodox Patriarch met with
PM Erdogan yesterday to request the re-opening of Halki
Seminary in Heybeliada. In a statement following the
meeting, the Patriarch voiced hope that Turkey would solve
the problem of the Greek minority and authorize the re-
opening of the seminary.

CHP Leader Baykal Opposes Troop Deployment to Iraq: CHP
leader Baykal stressed yesterday that if Turkey sends troops
to Iraq, Turkish forces would be seen as occupiers. Baykal

added that the US operation will lead to the ethnic disintegration of Iraq and will trigger a process of ethnic restructuring in the Middle East. Turkey cannot be expected to give support to such a process, Baykal said. He also criticized the United States for 'not taking a single step' against the PKK/KADEK in Northern Iraq. In today's "Cumhuriyet," CHP parliamentary deputy Onur Oymen accused the United States of 'ordering' Turkey to pass the repentance law, and said that Turkey's support in Iraq is 'not for sale.'

EDITORIAL OPINION

"Erdogan's Iraq approach"

Murat Yetkin interviewed Prime Minister Erdogan for the intellectual/opinion maker "Radikal" (8/29): "Prime Minister Erdogan said that Turkey wants to share in the political and economic rebuilding of Iraq. Otherwise, a troop deployment would fall short of Turkey's expectation to become part of a solution in Iraq. . Erdogan noted that the U.S. believes Turkey's contribution can help the stability situation in Iraq, and talks are continuing in that direction. . Erdogan said he is aware of the fact that local Iraqis are not positive about seeing Turkish troops in their region, but added that consultations with Iraqi groups are continuing. . Erdogan said that in order to avoid a new 'March 1' crisis, the government would wait until conditions are ripe and parliamentary approval is guaranteed. . Erdogan's remarks indicate an ongoing bargaining process with the Americans. It seems that the 'ripening' process will continue at least until the NSC meeting in September. . The military also believes that Turkey should not hurry, and that balances in the Middle East and in relations with the U.S. should be taken into consideration."

"Foreign policy with Arab tribes"

Cengiz Candar wrote in the mass appeal "DB-Tercuman" (8/29): "The Obeid tribe is influential around Kirkuk, with around 500-750,000 members. Four leaders of the tribe, given a reception at the highest level in Ankara, said they preferred Turkish troops to be deployed in Northern Iraq instead of in the Fallujah-Bakuba-Ramadi triangle, which they believe to be a dangerous area. They are really saying that Turkish troops should be deployed around Kirkuk, so that Turks, the Obeid tribe, and the Turkomen can confront the Americans and the Kurds in the region. . Ankara scorns Barzani and Talabani, representatives of 4.5 million Kurds, but flatters these Arab tribal leaders. Then we call this an 'Iraq policy.' Imagine an alliance between the Ankara-controlled Turkoman Front and the Obeid tribe, a remnant of the Saddam era, against a team of Americans and the Kurds. This will do nothing but bring ridicule to Turkey's foreign policy."

EDELMAN